

The Wellcome Laboratories of Tropical Medicine,
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17th May 1951.

Dear Dr. Lederberg,

Thank you for your letter of May 4th.

I am sending under separate cover two reprints of the paper as you request and also under separate cover sub-cultures of the indicator strains 1404 and 1411. I must, however, tell you that I have now succeeded in isolating a phage from the former, using a third type of indicator strain. I have long expected this to happen and I am now reasonably certain that in time it will be possible to find phages in every strain of Salmonella typhi-murium. It is all a question of discovering the right indicator strain. As far as I can ascertain this does not in any way invalidate the results which I have already found, although the problems become more complicated.

I agree with you in thinking that it is unlikely that cultures containing one phage type become superinfected with another under natural conditions. It is not very easy to bring this about, even in artificial culture where the chances of such double infection taking place are of a high order. I have now been able to carry out an investigation of a larger series of cultures from one area and the typing results agree practically 100% with the epidemiological expectations.

Yours sincerely,

J. S. Boyd